



Volume 18 Issue 1

Community Trees

Winter 2007

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Submit a Council Award Nomination

The Council would like to invite you to nominate worthy individuals and groups for Council Community Forestry Awards, which will be presented at the *2008 Iowa Community Forestry Awards Luncheon*. The luncheon will be held on April 3 at the Airport Holiday Inn, located in Des Moines. The main purpose of the event is to recognize the recipients of the Council Awards, as well as the communities that have qualified for Tree City USA awards.

The Council Awards recognize individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to urban and community forestry, whether through improving the size and health of community forests, increasing education and awareness, promoting advocacy, etc. Your help is needed in 1) identifying deserving individuals or groups, and 2) submitting a nomination. Not only is this a great way to call attention to the good work of our peers, but the review committee also appreciates having a sufficient pool of nominees to choose from. The members of the Council hope that you will send in a nomination using the enclosed form and help to recognize those whose efforts have been outstanding. Nominations are due by February 8, 2008.

The National Arbor Day Foundation's "Tree City USA" award recognizes communities that have worked to advance urban forestry and have invested in the local tree resources. To become a *Tree City USA*, your community must: 1) Possess either a city forester or an active city tree board, 2) Have a tree ordinance, 3) Annually spend at least \$2 per capita for a community forestry program, and 4) The mayor must issue a proclamation naming a day as "Arbor Day".

Qualifying communities will be presented with the award and will have the opportunity to take a photo with a state leader, often the Governor. The hope is that the award will be a source of community pride. *Tree City USA* applications can be found on the DNR Forestry Bureau's website (www.iowadnr.com/forestry/treecity.html) and should be submitted as soon as possible. Completed applications should be returned to Randy Cook, Forestry Bureau/ Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. Please contact Randy Cook (515-281-5600, Randy.Cook@dnr.iowa.gov) with any questions.



TREE CITY USA

President's Message

By Keith Majors



As I gaze out my lunchroom window - my office does not have an outside window - I see a field being pounded into submission. What was a soybean field last summer is being developed and will soon sprout houses, condos, and no doubt some form of a convenience store. I will miss the greenery and the occasional white-tailed deer that used the field, but I am not against the development. What bothers me is the insistence of the engineers that prepare the site on stripping the land of any resemblance of life and then squeezing the last breath out of the soil.

A couple of months ago dozers and implements of destruction cleared the ground of all living plants. Box elders, elms, black locusts, and a few cedars in a draw were pulled out by the roots and ground into woodchips. Then the ground shavers removed what little topsoil there was. This topsoil was sold by the truck load to other new subdivisions to be sprinkled onto the packed clay for a medium to grow grass. After the black soil is removed, the remaining clay is graded, shaped, and pounded by heavy equipment until every bit of water and air is squeezed out. Basically the land is turned into one large adobe brick. After the houses are built the developer will spread a few inches of black soil, which they now must buy from another building site, and then seed grass or install sod. Then the landscapers are called and they plant flowers, shrubs and trees. A few years down the road the homeowners will be trying to figure out why their trees are dying and their grass won't survive without a constant irrigation and fertilization program.

The other night I went out to an older rural subdivision that was built differently. The whole acreage wasn't cleared. House sites were developed between the trees and many old oaks were still alive and doing well. Their roots were undisturbed and the soil had ample pores for aeration, nutrients, and water. I estimated that one oak was well over 200 years of age. As I looked upon this beautiful oak I thought about the new subdivision being built near my office. These new subdivisions will have a difficult time sustaining any quality trees and will most likely never see an oak reach maturity.

Who will speak for the trees?

5th Grade Poster Contest Coming Up

The 2008 Arbor Day Poster Contest is approaching, and fifth grade art teachers are invited to participate with their students. Also, interested community volunteers are encouraged to work with local schools to help in coordinating a contest entry. Iowa's winning poster will compete in the National Arbor Day Poster Contest, sponsored nationally by the National Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota, and in Iowa by the Telephone Pioneers. The theme for this year's contest is "Trees are Terrific ... Inside and Out!"

The 2008 Activity Guide is required to participate and will be mailed to fifth grade art teachers in December. Other persons can request an activity guide by visiting www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/ or contacting Matt Brewer at matt.brewer@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-242-6892. Entries are due by February 15, 2008.

New Shade Tree Resource on the Web

What kind of tree is in the front yard of my new house? Why is my pine tree turning brown? What type of shade tree should I plant on the east side of my house? How often should I water the newly planted tree in my front yard? Is the summer a good time to prune my oak tree? Are you looking for answers to tree questions like these? If you are seeking information on shade trees, there is a new website located at shadetrees.iowadnr.gov that provides linkages to updated information on shade trees and tree care.

This new website is a cooperative effort between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau, Iowa State University Forestry Extension, and the US Forest Service. There are 6 main areas of information provided on the website: Tree Selection, Emerald Ash Borer, Tree Planting, Tree Care & Pruning, Tree Health, and Tree Identification.

There are many different websites that provide good tree information, and the goal of this site is to provide a clearinghouse of shade tree information to homeowners that will assist them with the proper management and care of their trees.

Calendar of Events

February 8

IUCFC Awards Nominations Due
randy.cook@dnr.iowa.gov

February 15

5th Grade Poster Contest Deadline
www.arboday.org/kids/postercontest/

March 11-12

ISU Shade Tree Short Course
Ames
iles@iastate.edu

April 3

IUCFC Awards Luncheon
Des Moines
randy.cook@dnr.iowa.gov

Iowa Urban & Community Forestry Council

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| John Batt, Council Bluffs | Aron Flickinger, IADNR | Merry Rankin, IADNR |
| Mike Bevins, IADALS | Laura Hawks, ASLA | Terry Robinson, Iowa City |
| Don Brazelton, Iowa Assn CCB | Jeff Iles, ISU Horticulture | Tricia Rummer, IADNR |
| Matt Brewer, IADNR | Daniel Kalbach, Oskaloosa | Deb Ryun, Conservation Districts |
| Lisa Burban, US Forest Service | Keith Majors, Davenport | Rick Tagtow, NICC |
| Jeremy Cochran, IADNR | Jim Mason, Country Landscapes | Paul Tauke, IADNR |
| Ralph Conner, Perficut | Mark Masteller, IADOT | Jan Thompson, ISU NREM |
| Randy Cook, IADNR | Patty Petersen, Trees Forever | Mark Vitosh, IADNR |
| Tivon Feeley, ISU Forestry Ext | Shannon Ramsay, Trees Forever | Paul Wray, ISU Forestry Extension |

***NOTE:** This newsletter can be found online at either of two websites: www.forestry.iastate.edu/iucfc/
OR www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/.

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